

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John W. Jacobs and Elizabeth A. Dauch  
Assignee: NEC Electronics America, Inc  
Title: TUNGSTEN PLUG CORROSION PREVENTION  
METHOD USING IONIZED AIR  
Application No.: Unassigned Filing Date: Herewith  
Examiner: Unassigned Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Docket No.: NEC0254US

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Austin, Texas  
October 28, 2003

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**37 CFR § 1.97(b)**

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97 and § 1.98, the documents listed on the accompanying PTO Form-1449 are called to the attention of the Examiner for the above patent application. Copies of these documents are enclosed.

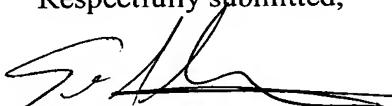
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1. an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
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3. an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

**EXPRESS MAIL NUMBER:**

EV 304 737 528 US

Respectfully submitted,

  
Eric A. Stephenson  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 38,321

U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office				Attorney Docket No.: NEC0254US		Serial No.: Unassigned		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicant(s): John W. Jacobs and Elizabeth A. Dauch				
				Filing Date: Concurrently herewith		Group Art Unit: Unassigned		
<b>► EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EV 304 737 528 US ◀</b>								
<b>U.S. Patent Documents</b>								
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate	
	AA	4,901,194	Feb. 13, 1990	Steinman et al.	361	213	Dec. 29, 1988	
	AB	6,077,762	Jun. 20, 2000	Victor C. Liang et al.	438	593	Dec. 22, 1997	
	AC	6,153,531	Nov. 28, 2000	Subhas Bothra, et al.	438	745	Dec. 22, 1997	
	AD							
	AE							
	AF							
	AG							
	AH							
	AI							
	AJ							
	AK							
<b>Foreign Patent Documents</b>								
							Translation	
		Document	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							
<b>OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>								
	AQ	Bothra, S., H. Sur and V. Liang, "A New Failure Mechanism by Corrosion of Tungsten in a Tungsten Plug Process," Technology Development, VLSI Technology, Inc., San Jose, California, 95131; 1998 IEEE.						
	AR							
	AS							
Examiner:				Date Considered:				
<p><b>*EXAMINER:</b> Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.</p>								